



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0061-O

Page 1 of 1

A reviewer alleged that text material in an NSF proposal was plagiarized from a publication that was included as a cited reference. We contacted the PI of the NSF proposal about the identified plagiarism, and the PI responded that the identified text was a technical description of a protocol. The PI provided two documents in support of his claim that the identified text was copied because the language was technically constrained. Based on his response and our further review, we determined that the PI did not clearly signify that the identified text, which was technically descriptive in nature, was copied verbatim from the cited reference. Our analysis of the PI's other NSF proposals did not reveal any other plagiarism. We conclude no further inquiry was warranted, and the PI's failure to appropriately cite text material did not rise to the level of research misconduct. We sent the PI a questionable research practice letter reminding him about the importance of appropriate citation practices.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action.